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FOREIGN LANGUAGE LECTURE PROGRAM

A. Purpose

This program is designed to provide an opportunity for interested persons to hear talks on a variety of topics about a foreign country, delivered in the native language of that country, and to discuss the activities and culture of an area in the language of that area.

B. Plan

Each series of lectures in a given language on the country where that language is spoken will consist of eight to fourteen lectures by substantive specialists with advanced to native fluency in the language. Each lecture will be followed by a discussion normally conducted in the foreign language. Participants will be permitted, however, to address questions or remarks in English if they prefer. Lectures will be scheduled for two hours once or twice a month.

C. Languages

Programs now are being planned in Russian, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Efforts to develop programs for other languages and areas will be made whenever sufficient interest is indicated.

D. Topics

The variety and scope of topics will be determined by the panel of lecturers. Lecturers are free to select any topics that they believe will contribute to the professional, intellectual or cultural interests of Agency personnel. A list, intended to be suggestive, but not restrictive, is attached.

E. Participants and Participation

This activity is open to all interested persons. Persons may register either as participants or as auditors. Participants should have at least a moderate ability at comprehension and spoken fluency. They will be expected to attend all lectures, and will receive formal credit in their training record for participation. Auditors should have at least a moderate degree of comprehension. They will be free to attend only such lectures as they choose. They also may contribute to discussion. Some substantive familiarity with the area will be an advantage for all.

F. Registration

Persons desiring to attend as participants or auditors may register by submission to the Registrar, OTR, of Form No. 73 (1 Nov 54), "Request for Internal Training" (items 1, 2, 10, 19, 23 and 24 only).

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Persons interested in development of series in languages other than those mentioned above (para. C) may indicate their interest by calling extension

G. Information

Further information may be had at 2129 "I" Building or by calling extension

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Foreign Language Lecture Program Topic List

Below is a list of suggested topics for the Foreign Language Lecture Program. The sampling below is presented solely as an outline of possible subjects for discussion; any suggestions as to additions or modifications will be most welcome. It is anticipated that this list will be greatly expanded by the time the lecture program begins.

I. Economics

1. Appraisal of the Point Four Program in (Italy, etc.)
2. Scarce capital and Soviet doctrine
3. Soviet use of trade as a weapon
4. (French, etc.) businessmen and their attitudes toward participation in the International Trade Fair Program
5. The economic challenge of (France, etc.) in the post-war era
6. Review of economic doctrines, 1870-1929, etc.
7. Karl Marx and his contribution to the critique of political economy
8. Problems involved in measuring the degree of monopoly and competition
9. "Welfare" economics and the economics of socialism
10. (French, Italian, etc.) conceptions of economic progress
11. Influence of the rates on prices
12. Tariff policies between the (U.S., etc.) and (France, etc.)
13. Progress and problems in the economy of (Italy, etc.)
14. (France, etc.) and the Schumann Plan
15. Recent industrial development in (Italy, etc.)

II. Literature

1. Notes on the use of the eternal triangle in _____ literature
2. East and West in _____ literature
3. Best-selling _____ novels and their content characteristics
4. City novel as a literary genre
5. Democratic theme in _____ historical literature
6. Humanism: the classical past
7. Panorama of present-day _____ novelists
8. Crisis in (French, etc.) fiction, 1910-1930
9. Existentialism and French literature in Jean-Paul Sartre's novels
10. Present temper in (French, etc.) judged through French, etc., literature
11. The South (Midi, Andalucia, etc.) in _____ literature
12. French, etc. drama of the 19th Century
13. French, etc. theater of the 19th Century
14. French, etc. novel of the 19th, etc., Century

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15. French, etc. short story of the 19th, etc. Century
16. French, etc. prose of the 19th, etc. Century
17. French, etc. criticism, of the 19th, etc. Century
18. French, etc. letters of the 19th, etc. Century
19. The influence of French, etc., drama of the 19th Century on Germany, etc.
20. The influence of French, etc., theater of the 19th Century on Germany, etc.
21. The development of ideas in the literature of the century

III. Philosophy

1. Causality and substance
2. Symbols: vehicles of reason or emotion?
3. Historical relations between religion and intellectual freedom
4. The ties between church and state in (Spain, etc.)
5. Vitality of religion in (Italy, etc.) and the prospects of its use as an anti-Communist weapon
6. The papacy: the church and the new forces in Western Europe and Italy
7. Socio-religious problems of (Italy, Spain, etc.)

IV. Labor

1. A contrast of trade unionism in the United States and (France, etc.)
2. Christian trade unionism since World War II
3. Europe's Unions today
4. The impact of unionism on (French, etc.) society
5. The history of the development of trade unions in (France, etc.)
6. Wage and hour legislation in Italy, etc.)

V. Politics

1. Modern colonialism: institutions and policies
2. Demagogues: established arts and techniques
3. Historical survey of the use of balance of power as a guide to policy-making
4. What is a conservative? A liberal?
5. Problems of community, loyalty, power, social justice, tradition
6. Some impressions of the dynamics of totalitarian society
7. Clear and present danger doctrine and the Communist conspiracy

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8. The party system in (Italy, etc.)
9. Particularism versus nationalism
10. Limits on the powers of the president, premier, etc.
11. Political heritage of (Italy, etc.)
12. (France, etc.) and the Geneva conference
13. The treaty making powers of president, premier, legislative body in (France, etc.)
14. (French, etc.) treaties of the 20th Century
15. The impact of Eastern political concepts on Western political developments since (1945, etc.)
16. Atom defense problems of (Europe, etc.)
17. Toward a United Europe
18. Decline of colonialism in (Africa, etc.)
19. Origins, structure and function of the French Union
20. (French, etc.) foreign policy and the United Nations
21. The Communist party in (Italy, etc.)
22. Changing relations between the U.S. and (Spain, etc.) since World War II

VI. Customs

1. Christmas traditions in (Spain, etc.)
2. Religious holidays in (Italy, etc.)
3. Legends and folklore in (France, etc.)

VII. Education

1. Universities in (France, etc.)
2. Problems of education in (Spain, etc.)
3. Secondary education in (Italy, etc.) as compared to the U.S.
4. Enrollment in elementary schools in (France, etc.)

VIII. Sociology

1. Juvenile delinquency in (Italy, etc.)
2. Public health problems in (France, etc.)
3. Medical facilities and cost in (Spain, etc.)
4. The problem of alcoholism in France
5. Crime and punishment in (Italy, etc.)
6. The system of social stratification in (Spain, etc.)—hindrance to progress?
7. Welfare and social service work in (France, etc.)
8. Emigration and immigration in (Italy, etc.)
9. Population pressures in (Italy, etc.)

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IX. Language

1. How dialects hamper progress
2. How dialects contribute to variety and enrichment of a culture
3. Language teaching in (France, etc.)

X. Art and Music

1. Contemporary (French, etc.) art

XI. Science

1. Prospects for atomic power in (France, etc.)

XII. Health

XIII. Law

XIV. Foreign Relations

XV. Agriculture

XVI. Military

XVII. Travel

XVIII. Finance

XIX. Sport

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